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A CHEAP AND EFFICIENT LIFE-BOX.

By JAS. E. WHITNEY, Rochester, N. Y.

It is often very desirable to use several life-boxes in the comparative examination of different "finds," but their expense has heretofore limited most observers to the use of one or two. The advantage of having quite an assortment of various sized boxes is apparent.

The writer has devised the following simple but efficient form of life-box which is easily made and almost without expense—the entire cost per box not exceeding five cents.

Get from any hardware store a full set of brass ferrules, consisting of about a dozen ferrules of graduated sizes, fitting snugly one inside the other. Take any two which fit well together and cement the smaller one, large end down, to the center of an ordinary glass slide. Cement to the top of the ferrule one of the thickest cover-glasses you have that fits it. Now take another thick cover-glass which fits *inside* the larger ferrule, and cement it to the inside at the top. The box is now complete, and all that remains to be done is to slip the large ferrule over the other. Mica can be used instead of the cover-glasses if desired.

CHEAP PUNCHES FOR SHEET WAX.

By JAS. E. WHITNEY, Rochester, N. Y.

As wax remains one of the best materials for building up the walls of cells, it may be of interest to describe a plan by which any worker can make for himself a series of punches ranging in size from one-fourth inch up to one inch, at an entire expense of about ten cents for the set of a dozen punches.

Get a set of brass ferrules, such as described in the account of the life-box, and with a round file bevel the large end to a cutting edge, which is easily done, and you will then have a set of punches of convenient sizes adapted to making wax rings of sizes corresponding to all the ordinary sizes of cover-glass.